

Suggested Remarks
US Government Representative
CIP Turn Over Ceremony
Barangay Damakling Footbridge
Paglat, Maguindanao Province
02 June 2006, 9:45 a.m.

Honorable Secretary Dureza,
Honorable Governor Ampatuan,
Honorable Mayor Langkuno,
Brgy. Captain Dondoy,
Colleagues from the United States Government
and the GEM Program,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be
here with you all today, as we formally turn
over another Community Infrastructure
Project, the Damakling Footbridge.

This facility is one of 800 community
infrastructure projects that USAID in
partnership with the Government of the
Philippines, is building through our Growth

with Equity in Mindanao, or GEM Program.

These types of facilities, as well as a number of larger infrastructure improvements that we will also support, are intended to improve the quality of life of residents of beneficiary communities. They complement other important efforts that the U.S.

Government and our Philippine partners are carrying out throughout Mindanao in the areas of microfinance, improved governance, education, family planning, health and nutrition, environmental management, and renewable energy.

While this simple facility will provide the residents of Barangay Damakling with the means to facilitate the movement of people

and products to and from this area, it also serves a larger purpose. It demonstrates that the partnership between a community and our two governments – mutually committed to peace and prosperity in Mindanao – can achieve true progress, and real results. Thanks to these partnerships, we see before us today a concrete expression of the benefits of peace.

We are truly pleased to be able to help those who are committed to peace and who have the vision to see a brighter tomorrow for this Barangay, for the Municipality of Paglat, for the Province of Maguindanao, for Mindanao and for the Philippines.

Thank you.